

January 4-7, 2014

Please note that news sites update their hyperlinks, so it is advised that articles of interest be read soon as they might not be accessible later.

Detroit Free Press: Burst pipe causes extensive damage at Frank Murphy Hall of Justice

"A pipe burst in the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice in Detroit over the weekend and caused extensive damage to the lobby and a couple of courtrooms. It was a sprinkler line that ruptured in the entrance lobby around 4 a.m. Saturday morning, said Paula Anderson, Director of Buildings Division for Wayne County."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

The Detroit News: Pipes burst at Detroit's Frank Murphy

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: Feedback: Attorney general says he is following law on keeping juvenile lifers locked up

Attorney General Bill Schuette writes "I am writing to set the record straight regarding last week's column by Brian Dickerson in the Free Press concerning teen murderers that simply got the facts and the law wrong.... A large part of my responsibility is to serve as a voice for victims of crime, to be an advocate for crime victims and families whose husbands and wives, sons and daughters, moms and dads have been brutally murdered."

[Full story](#)

Ann Arbor News: 2014 judicial race in Washtenaw County: Two attorneys announce campaigns

"Two attorneys asking Washtenaw County voters to elect them to the 22nd Circuit Court bench later this year have announced their campaigns. Veronique Liem and Mike Woodyard both said on Monday they intend to run for the seat being vacated by outgoing Judge Don Shelton. Shelton has been on the bench since 1990, but he won't be able to seek re-election this year because he's turning 70 in June. State law prohibits the appointment or election of a judge who has reached the age of 70."

[Full story](#)

Bridge Magazine: Governor's signing bill that shields identities of 'issue ads' donors a disgraceful abandonment of principle

Phil Power writes "... It is clear that Michigan politics in recent years have been swamped by a tidal wave of 'dark money,' millions and millions of anonymous dollars spent on political ads by an astounding number of committees, whether candidate, party election, 501(c)3 or 501(c)4 'nonprofit' groups. Since 2000, more than half of all spending on Michigan Supreme Court campaigns has been undisclosed, including more than three-quarters of all spending in the 2012 campaign, according to the Michigan Campaign Finance Network."

[Full story](#)

Flint Journal: Flint, Genesee District Court merger could be on fast track in Lansing

"The chairman of the state Senate Judiciary Committee says he expects a bill that would allow the Genesee and Flint district courts to merge could be law by the end of the first quarter of 2014.... [State Senator Rick] Jones said he expects the bill to be signed into law in the first quarter of this year, opening the door for changes in several district courts in the state."

[Full story](#)

Grand Rapids Press: Ottawa County offices again closed Tuesday as frightening wind chills continue

"Ottawa County courts and government offices will again be closed on Tuesday, Jan. 7, as frightening wind chills hit the Lakeshore and wind continues to create white-out conditions.... The temperature hovered at just 2 degrees in Holland before sunrise on Tuesday. The windchill was -26 degrees."

[Full story](#)

Grand Rapids Press: Courtroom erupts as Grand Rapids man who murdered young mother is dragged away

"The tragic drama surrounding the murder of Latrice Maze, a mother of five, only intensified Monday when the man convicted of killing her violently erupted in the courtroom upon learning his sentence. Jahleel Hoskins did offer a weeping apology to the family of the woman he killed last March. He talked of how the victim's body was disposed of in a trash dumpster, yet told her family and the judge that he loved Maze and her murder was unintentional."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Associated Press: Strangler throws table at sentencing judge

[Full story](#)

Note: The Associated Press article also ran in the Detroit Free Press and other media outlets. WOOD-TV(8)/Grand Rapids: Hoskins sentenced; outburst in courtroom

[Full story](#)

Kalamazoo Gazette: Scott Pierangeli, former Kalamazoo County assistant prosecutor, sworn in as probate court judge

"After being sworn in as a Kalamazoo County Probate Judge in front of friends, family and area officials Friday, Scott Pierangeli tried to impart a little wisdom on his two sons.... Pierangeli, a former assistant prosecutor in Kalamazoo County who most recently worked as an attorney referee for the Cass County Friend of the Court, was appointed to the Kalamazoo County Probate Court by Governor Rick Snyder in late November to fill a vacancy created when Judge Donald Halstead resigned in July."

[Full story](#)

The Macomb Daily: Ruling overturned in Warren official's lawsuit against John Does

"A former Warren official cannot be deposed to divulge what he knows about an online forum which included postings that a high-ranking city administrator considered defamatory, the Michigan Court of Appeals has ruled. In its 16-page opinion, the three-judge panel overturned a lower court decision that had permitted Assistant Director of Public Service Gus Ghanam to question former Communications Director Joe Munem as part of a lawsuit by Ghanam against an unspecified number of 'John Does.' "

[Full story](#)

Note: The article also ran in the Daily Tribune.

The Macomb Daily: Courts in Macomb County stay open despite weather

"Carolyn Povich said she knew she couldn't be too late to her job Monday as administrator of 40th District Court in St. Clair Shores. The court is operating in a temporary location, the old St. Gertrude School, in a 1930s-constructed building that takes a long time to warm up.... The court has been in the temporary site since last January while a new courthouse is being built less than a mile down Jefferson Avenue. The new court building is slated to open in March, [Povich] said."

[Full story](#)

Midland Daily News: Judge Allen receives lifetime achievement award

"Innovative programs steering troubled youth toward more fruitful paths have become a hallmark of Midland County Probate and Family Court Judge Dorene S. Allen's time on the bench, and are in part the reason behind her recent statewide recognition. Allen was presented with the Daniel J. Wright Lifetime Achievement Award for her exceptional work on behalf of Michigan children and families, including successful programs for young offenders [during Michigan Adoption Day proceedings at the Michigan Hall of Justice on November 26.]"

[Full story](#)

Midland Daily News: Carpenter sworn in as Midland County district judge

"Former Midland County Prosecutor Michael Carpenter was sworn in as 75th District Court judge Monday, drawing praise from members of the bench as well as others who know and have worked with him. U.S. District Court Judge Thomas L. Ludington, who administered the oath of office at the Historic Courtroom at the Midland County Courthouse, called Carpenter 'a principled, practical, considerate man who is going to be a first-rate judge.' "

[Full story](#)

The MLW Blog: Inclement weather and court closings: A mixed bag

"Unbelievably cold weather and dangerous wind chills continue to grip the area, so if you need to deal with the state appellate courts today, bundle up and be careful. The Michigan Supreme Court's Office of Public Information says that the MSC, Michigan Court of Appeals (all offices), Court of Claims, and State Court Administrative Office will all be open as usual today, Tuesday, Jan. 7. The Michigan Hall of Justice in Lansing will be open as usual also."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Detroit Legal News: Snowstorm shuts State Supreme Court [Monday]

[Full story](#)

The MLW Blog: Lawyers sent to AGC by appeals panel take case to Supreme Court, dispute they filed too late

"Mount Clemens attorney Michael E. Tindall and Plymouth lawyer Mark A. Chaban, who the Michigan Court of Appeals ordered be referred to the Attorney Grievance Commission on ethics charges, have taken their case to the Michigan Supreme Court. On Jan. 3, 2014, Tindall and Chaban filed an application for leave in Chaban v. Rathore.... Now, they are facing the possibility that the application was filed one day late."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

The Macomb Daily: Appeals court accuses lawyers of conduct code violations, criticizes Macomb judge

[Full story](#)

Note: The article also ran in the Daily Tribune.

The MLW Blog: Process servers now exempt from trespassing laws

"Michigan process servers are no longer considered 'trespassers' when trying to serve documents. Public Act 230, passed by the state Legislature and given immediate effect at the end of 2013, amended the Michigan Penal Code so it is no longer a 30-day misdemeanor to enter or remain on the premises of another without lawful authority after having been forbidden to do so or asked to leave by the owner, occupant, or their agents."

[Full story](#)

The News-Herald/Southgate: Community garden provides healthy food to those who can't afford it

"The Trenton Community Garden was established in 2009 with the mission to grow and distribute fresh produce to local food banks.... A key factor in supplying labor to help in the garden is the 33rd District Court. The judges in the court sentence nonviolent offenders to perform their community service sentences in the garden. This works out to be a win-win situation for all involved. Many other district courts in the area have followed suit by using community service hours to feed the hungry."

[Full story](#)

Oakland County Legal News: Annual Tertzag Tribute Dinner planned for Feb. 27

"The friends and family of Judge Kaye Tertzag will host the Fifth Annual Tertzag Tribute Dinner on Thursday, Feb. 27, at the Park Place Banquet Hall in Dearborn from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. Attendees are encouraged to wear purple to the event. Those wearing purple will be entered into a drawing for a door prize."

[Full story](#)

The Oakland Press Blog: Between Extremes: Mental health courts: Real achievement for Michigan

"Although many states beat Michigan to the punch in creating mental health courts, officials from all branches of government should nevertheless be commended for finally embracing the concept. Thousands — perhaps tens of thousands — of people will benefit as a result. It is well known that too many victims of mental illness end up in our criminal justice system when what they really needed was treatment, not punishment."

[Full story](#)

The Oakland Press: OUR SAY: Mediators could help keep trivial feuds from turning violent

"... Mediators are trained to seek solutions satisfactory to both sides. The Resolution Center in Mount Clemens says it offers people the chance to 'seize the opportunity of conflict and create something positive ... to help build community.' The Oakland Mediation Center in Bloomfield Hills says 80 percent of disputes are settled through the process, and the compliance rate is about 90 percent."

[Full story](#)

Press & Guide/Dearborn: DEARBORN: Mayor, council sworn in, ready to start new term

"... [Dearborn City Council members], along with Mayor Jack O'Reilly, were sworn in for their four-year terms [at the city's inaugural ceremony Thursday evening January 2] by state Supreme Court Justice Brian Zahra, who grew up in Dearborn Heights and is a Divine Child High School graduate. The ninth elected official, Clerk Kathy Buda, had the flu and did not attend."

[Full story](#)